Hawktober
HOMECOMING AND PARENTS WEEKEND
OCTOBER 20–22, 2017

» MEET NEW UHART PRESIDENT GREGORY WOODWARD
» RECONNECT WITH YOUR UHART FRIENDS AND FAMILY
» ENJOY GREAT FOOD, HOWIE THE HAWK, FRIENDS, AND FUN!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
LEARN MORE AT HARTFORD.EDU/HAWKTOBER
DEAR READERS,

On June 30, 2017, University of Hartford President Walter Harrison retired after leading the University for 19 years. This edition of the Observer attempts to capture in a few pages nearly two decades of the University’s growth and achievements under Harrison, who always preferred to be called Walt. His legacy cannot be reduced to a simple infographic but we have included one anyway.

In early April, hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and invited guests attended a party for Walt in the Chase Arena of the Sports Center. It was a picture-perfect celebration and we will share it through pictures with you. Walt’s impact on the national higher education stage through his work with the NCAA is also featured. And we delve into what influences in Walt’s life undergirded his commitment to providing an education for all who are able to study here.

Not surprisingly, many educational, governmental, and community groups honored Walt with awards and events throughout the past year, so we’ve included a compilation of those as well.

Hawktober, our homecoming and parents weekend, is October 20–22. Make your plans now to attend and take the opportunity to welcome the University’s new president, Gregory S. Woodward, who joined us on July 1. He was formerly president of Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Enjoy this edition of the Observer.

Sincerely,

Mildred McNeill
Executive Director, Office of Marketing and Communication

Read the Observer online at hartford.edu/observer

facebook.com/UniversityofHartford
twitter.com/UofHartford
Instagram.com/UniversityofHartford
youtube.com/UHartfordNews

On the cover:
Walter Harrison through the years with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members.
University of Hartford President Walter Harrison retired on June 30, 2017, after 19 years. For nearly two decades the University experienced a period of energy and vitality unmatched in its history, thanks in large part to Harrison, the University’s fifth president. His leadership spanned nearly a third of the University’s 60-year existence. During his years at the helm, despite two significant national economic downturns, the University’s finances, fundraising, and academic quality all improved dramatically.

Today’s UHart campus looks nothing like it did when Harrison’s presidency began. There are many new and renewed buildings. Major additions or renovations to the University’s signature academic facilities include the Renée Samuels Center of the Hartford Art School (opened in 2007), the Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology Complex (opened in 2005), the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center, which houses the dance and theatre divisions of The Hartt School (opened in 2008), and the Shaw Center at Hillyer College (opened in 2012). In addition, the University’s newest residence hall, the five-story Hawk Hall, was completed in 2007; new athletics fields for soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball opened in 2006; and a significant renovation of the University Commons dining hall took place in 2014. A major renovation of and addition to the library was completed in spring, 2017 and renovation of Gengras Student Union is now underway.

Arnold Greenberg, a past president of the Board of Regents, was on the hiring committee that recommended Harrison for the presidency in 1998. “After 19 years of close association I think it is the warmth and genuineness that people trust him for,” says Greenberg. Greenberg adds that Harrison’s tenure at the University was assisted by generally good economic times and that he made the most of that opportunity to not only build up the campus and the academics but to also forge bonds with the greater community.

Among the new academic programs added during President Harrison’s tenure are a bachelor’s degree in multimedia web design and development, a combined bachelor’s in Health Science/Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics (MSPO), a bachelor’s in Health Science leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, a master’s in architecture, an accelerated joint doctoral degree in pharmacy in partnership with the University of Saint Joseph, and three low-residency MFA programs in photography, illustration, and global arts.

Building the best and most caring community possible for students was Harrison’s focus and he monitored the success of that effort by staying in touch with students. He stopped to talk with them on walks across campus, he attended their performances, presentations, and sports events, and he taught classes. Harrison co-taught a course nearly every spring on “Discovering America: 1945 to the Present” with Professor of Educational Leadership Donn Weinholtz. They took turns lecturing in their multi-disciplinary approach to the topic, drawing on social science and literature.

“I came from a more critical theorist perspective, questioning the military industrial complex and the evolution of corporatocracy within the United States, and Walt came at it from a traditional faith in the American Dream perspective,” says Weinholtz, “so we would gently joust in that regard.”

“Walt has a heart for students and he has a heart for young people,” says DeLois Lindsey, the assistant vice president for student development. “He’s not an ivory tower president. He engages with students and shows he really cares.”

“Building a caring community” is not just a phrase to Harrison; it’s a way of going about life. “We’ve changed my mind,” is a phrase Lucille Nickerson, now in her third year as chair of the University’s Board of Regents, says she heard him say more than once. “Walt is extraordinary in his willingness to sort of ‘lay it out’ and let people engage in debate,” says Nickerson. “He has enormous trust in the judgment of people of good will.”

Anne Pidano, chair of the Faculty Senate adds, “One of the things that impressed me in my early one-on-one interactions with him was the extent to which he is genuinely engaged with people when he talks with them and very respectful of what people have to say.”

Literally building a caring community by creating a vibrant relationship with the greater Hartford community is a hallmark of Harrison’s legacy. The University was the first private university in the country with two public magnet schools on its campus—the
University of Hartford Magnet School (pre-K through grade 5) and the University High School of Science and Engineering.

To improve the neighborhood around the University as well as provide much needed space for dance and theatre instruction, the University, under Harrison, purchased a blighted industrial building and converted it into a 56,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility that provides performance and rehearsal spaces, classrooms, and studios. This beautiful center for performing arts education also serves as a resource for the surrounding neighborhood community.

Harrison served on many boards in the Hartford area, including Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, World Business Capital, The Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, and the MetroHartford Alliance. He is a past president of Hartford Stage, and was one of the founders of the Connecticut Science Center. He also participated in many parades, runs, walks, galas, and fundraisers.

Harrison is also recognized as a leader in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). He was the 2015 recipient of the prestigious NCAA President Gerald R. Ford Award for his work to improve the academic success of student athletes. He chaired the NCAA’s Committee on Academic Performance from its creation in 2004 to 2014 and chaired the NCAA’s Executive Committee from 2005 to 2007. Diane Dickman, a long-time executive at the NCAA, says Harrison, “is a champion of strong academic standards” who has made “phenomenal contributions” to improving the lives of student athletes.

If you measure success by how key indicators have changed since 1998, the numbers indicate success. Harrison congratulated 30,000 students as they graduated. Undergraduate applications for admission have more than tripled. The percentage of enrolled undergraduate students of color has tripled. Our students come from 46 states and 65 counties. The University employs 20 percent more faculty. The University’s endowment has increased by 100 percent and we are able to provide more financial aid support and faculty development.

If you measure success by how key indicators have changed since 1998, the numbers indicate success. Harrison congratulated 30,000 students as they graduated. Undergraduate applications for admission have more than tripled. The percentage of enrolled undergraduate students of color has tripled. Our students come from 46 states and 65 counties. The University employs 20 percent more faculty. The University’s endowment has increased by 100 percent and we are able to provide more financial aid support and faculty development.

But how does one measure the building of a caring community? Perhaps by asking community members. “I think it’s obvious he’s here for the students,” says Student Government Association President Julia Piri ’17. “He will literally do whatever he has to, no matter the time or effort, to create a good student experience.”

Lindsey, who has worked at the University for three decades, adds, “The experiences and feelings our students take back to their families, to their neighbors, and their churches and their synagogues, those are the things that I think attract more students. And I think we take care of our kids very well.”

Indeed, it does appear that Walter Harrison built—and left the lasting legacy of—a caring community.
Today, Walter Harrison is recognized as a national leader in developing NCAA guidelines to make sure that student athletes graduate. How did that come about?

In 2002 he answered a call to get more university presidents directly involved in governing the National Collegiate Athletic Association. He agreed to join the board of directors representing the American East Conference, to which the University of Hartford belongs. “None of my colleagues really wanted to do it and I thought, ‘I have been president for four years and I know something about athletics so it is something I should do,’” he says.

He didn’t know at the time that he was embarking on a road that would eventually lead to him winning the 2015 Gerald R. Ford award, the highest honor given by the NCAA.

The story of how Harrison went from sports scholar and enthusiast to a nationally recognized advocate for giving student athletes quality academic experiences and increasing their graduation rates involves a dose of serendipity.

He recalls his first board meeting and “arcane” discussions on things like “the recruiting season for volleyball.” There was also an announcement that a working group on academics had formed and that anyone willing to come half a day early to the next board meeting could join.
“I came and I discovered this group of people I really admired who were devoted to improving the student-athlete experience,” says Harrison. Two years later this group became the Committee on Academic Performance, or CAP. They asked Harrison to be the chair, a role he would perform for the next decade.

Harrison brought some unique perspectives to the table. He did his PhD dissertation on baseball and has an abiding fascination with sport. Also, in his previous role as vice president for university relations at the University of Michigan, he gained insights into different ways minority students gain access to higher education. Athletic scholarships are part of this and Harrison believed strongly that young men and women who come to play on a team should leave with the best possible education that the institution they are playing for can offer.

He also knew that intercollegiate athletics, especially marquee sports like football and basketball, are big business. Winning teams bring revenue and prestige to their institutions. Alumni are deeply invested in their alma maters’ teams on many different levels. Student athletes themselves, as well as their coaches, come with many different motivations. In other words, debates over how athletic departments should conduct themselves can get thorny.

Harrison appreciates and understands this, but he also brought principled beliefs that guided him. “The only moral reason for a university to sponsor athletics is to further the students’ experience at the university,” said Harrison. “Student athletes should be made to learn, not just get a grade in order to graduate.”

The CAP created rules around academic success among athletes and created a bottom line metric called the Academic Progress Rate, or APR. It is applied to teams, as opposed to individuals, and was developed by data specialists as a way of quantifying progress toward graduation semester-by-semester. Teams that fall below a certain standard can be penalized with ineligibility for post-season play, a stinging sanction that can prompt great ire.

“I’m not by nature a data-driven person,” says Harrison. “I’ve always said, ‘I’m a humanist, just tell me how you feel.’” That probably made him the right person to bring the geeks and the do-gooders together in the pursuit of putting teeth into protecting the primacy of learning even in the hothouse of sports.

This didn’t necessarily make Harrison popular. He remembers one year being asked to address the National Association of Basketball Coaches. “I was there to tell them that we were going to begin to measure the success of their students and that as a coach they were going to get a scoreboard on how well they had done.”

It almost turned into a torches and pitchforks moment. “They got really angry,” he says. “One of them jumped up on a chair and turned around to his colleagues and said, ‘Who is that guy up there? He doesn’t know anything about basketball;' And they started banging.”

Harrison didn’t feel threatened by having all these highly paid coaches yelling at him, but, he says, “You could feel this wave of animosity coming at you. I just stood there and let the whole thing wash over me.”

“When it died down I said, ‘look this isn’t going to do what you think it’s going to do.’ They ended up putting together a committee to work with me and it all worked out very fine. But change is tough.”

The results are what make Harrison feel good, because they have changed so many lives for the better. National averages show that most sports now have graduation rates for student athletes on par with the general student population. “The only sport lagging is football and that’s getting very close,” he says.

The meaning in raw numbers is that as of today more than 20,000 student athletes have graduated from college who, as compared to statistics for 2004 graduation rates, would not have earned degrees. Thousands more are joining them every year. It is one of Harrison’s proudest achievements and the reason he was recognized with the Gerald R. Ford Award.

Looking ahead, Harrison plans to stay active on the Knight Commission, another organization that works to ensure student athletes are treated equitably. He is nearing the middle of a five-year term on its board. A current challenge is to extend the gains in graduation rates of student athletes to under-resourced schools, many of which lag behind national averages.

The reputation Harrison built as a champion of student athletes has had the added benefit of boosting the University’s profile. “People around the country know about the University of Hartford because of my work with the NCAA,” he concludes.
Walter Harrison

When President Walter Harrison came to the University of Hartford in 1998 he set out to “build sidewalks.”

It’s a metaphor for how he sees the role of a college president. “You look to see where people want to go. Architects call it ‘desire trails’ or ‘desire lines,’” he says. “Then you figure out how to help them get there. It is probably the perfect definition of a leader.”

This image conveyed by the then new University president involves creating connections. Throughout his 19-year presidency, Harrison made it his business to forge bonds between people, especially those of different races, religions, and walks of life. He cites his multi-cultural upbringing as having helped him see that what people have in common is stronger than what divides them.

At UHart, Harrison found an institution that, in his words, “had a strong sense of community, was welcoming, and was a place where people cared about one another.” It was a good fit for the man who insists that everyone call him Walt.

Early on Walt launched a student recruitment drive that boosted enrollment from 4,000 to 4,800 by the end of his first decade in office. (Enrollment in 2016–17 was 6,737.) He made bringing in minority and first-generation college students a priority.

To fulfill this priority, Walt says he and the admission team looked in the direction of neighborhoods with populations traditionally underserved by higher education. They paid special attention to places where African Americans, up and down the socio-economic ladder, live.

“You can look at zip codes and look at what the demographics are, whether the high schools are growing or getting smaller,” says Walt. “When you locate a high school, you recruit a few students. They have a good experience here and then they tell their friends and that information is shared with their friends’ siblings and so on.”

Using population data to guide resources for attracting students isn’t news to people today, but “it wasn’t very common 19 years ago,” he says.

The fruits of that strategy are evident today. With a student body that is about 38 percent African American, 25 percent Jewish, and nearly 5 percent Muslim (thanks in part to international students), the University has one of the most diverse campuses in the Northeast. “We tied ourselves to a growing segment of the population and are reaping all the benefits.”

During his first decade, the University raised $175 million in a capital campaign and built or significantly renovated more than a dozen buildings, including a residence hall, major academic buildings, and student life centers. Walt also shepherded the conversion of an abandoned Cadillac dealership near campus into the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center, an action expected to anchor a wider urban redevelopment plan in the North End of Hartford.

Along the way UHart became the first private university in the country with two public magnet schools on campus. And Walt says he set out to methodically build the University’s reputation for
By Eric Goldscheider

STEM disciplines by merging the already reputable schools of technology and engineering with a new program in architecture, creating the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture. “We built a larger critical mass that allowed us to get ahead of the curve,” he says. Now the programs in this college are among the University’s fastest growing majors.

The University’s curriculum has expanded with new programs that are responsive to the needs of a changing world, such as degrees in web design and health sciences.

Walt guided the University through two national economic downturns during his tenure. Still the endowment has grown from $77 million to $152 million and the University completed a $175 million campaign. But the numbers, buildings, and programs don’t tell the whole story of Walt Harrison as University president.

Creating and sustaining a true sense of community is important to him. Racial justice and harmony are special objectives “I am one of those people who believe that race is a defining tension in America,” he says.

Before coming to Hartford, Walt was a vice president at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for nearly 10 years. There he received a trial by fire in what it is like to be at the vortex of affirmative action battles in a charged political climate.

He was the Michigan administration’s point person on a case that went to the Supreme Court based on complaints brought by two young white people, one an undergraduate and the other an aspiring law student, who argued that they were denied admission even though they had better academic records than African Americans who got in.

Walt remembers appearing on several TV programs to debate one of the students. He says his role was to make the case in the press that “there is a societal good that comes from having an accessible and affordable university,” and that there are many legitimate ways of making that happen.

In 2003, a few years after the media scrum during which Harrison had been the University of Michigan’s voice, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor wrote the prevailing opinion in what became a landmark decision setting parameters allowing race-conscious criteria for bringing more minority students into higher education.

With a student body that is about 38 percent African American, 25 percent Jewish, and nearly 5 percent Muslim (thanks in part to international students), the University has one of the most diverse campuses in the Northeast.
Walt wrote his doctoral dissertation on baseball in literature and he maintains a fascination with sports in society. As part of a course he co-taught during most of his time at the University called “Discovering America 1945 to the Present,” he had his students read August Wilson’s play “Fences.” The play, recently made into a movie with Denzel Washington and Viola Davis, is about a former Negro League baseball player who drives a garbage truck in Pittsburgh and struggles with the hopes and dreams he has for himself and his family amid the complex layers of inequities and affronts wrought by racism.

Part of Walt’s personal story is that his father was a Jewish businessman who, with his brother, ran a men’s clothing store established by their Eastern European immigrant parents. Both his parents, Alice and Lester, had been talented students whose dreams of continued academic fulfillment were denied by circumstances of poverty and civic obligations during the Great Depression and the Second World War.

Walt’s father became ill with Parkinson’s disease when Walt and his sister, Sally, were young and his parents often traveled to New York on extended trips for experimental treatments. When his parents were away, Walt and Sally moved in with James and Elizabeth Cameron, African Americans who two decades earlier came north from western Georgia as part of the Great Migration.

In his 2016 commencement address and in several subsequent speeches, Walt spoke of the influence of his “genetic ancestors who were immigrants and spiritual ancestors who were American slaves.” He told the graduating class, “I had parents who were Jewish, and parents (who are people I feel were my parents) who were Baptist. I learned to love opera and musical theatre from Alice and Lester, and gospel and rhythm and blues from Liz and Jim. I learned to love books and baseball from all of them!”

He remembers that he and his sister were considered “rowdy” at the synagogue attended by his grandparents and then for two years were “the two quiet white children in the corner” at the Baptist church.

Walt says he and Sally were bullied when they were young because they are Jewish. He also witnessed insults to basic human dignity based on skin color alone, including when Liz died during a routine operation and the hospital would not release any information on what happened. Not even her husband ever found out.

“I wouldn’t ever claim to be African American,” said Harrison. “But I had an experience of living in an environment which really shaped my understanding of how different people view the world in different ways and what they have in common.”

Harrison’s Jewish grandfather, Samuel, fled murderous pogroms in Europe. As a new American, arriving penniless at the age of 13 to join his brother Banyamin who came before him, he traversed Appalachia selling sewing needles, thread, and cloth before establishing a string of businesses culminating in the store that supported Walt as a child.

“I am one generation removed from an immigrant, and two generations removed from American slaves,” he said. “I think about that every day of my life.”
His experiences promoting diversity nationally through his work at the University of Michigan prepared him to create pathways toward diversity through a decidedly less contentious process.

The University of Hartford has valued diversity and inclusion from its inception 60 years ago. Walt helped take those values to another level by fulfilling the mandate to grow the under-represented student population and nurturing a culture of pride and achievement that lifts everyone.

In his 19 years leading the University there have been numerous times that the entire campus, students, faculty, and staff, has come together to support each other in times of need and crisis. And the campus community is not insular; there are many annual and impromptu events to support the community surrounding the University campus and the three towns in which the University sits.

As he is handing his successor an intellectually vibrant and highly diverse community, Walt says he is well aware of the challenges posed by the present political climate.

“I am concerned about the increasingly prevalent belief that what divides us as Americans and as human beings is more powerful than what unites us” he says. “And that, I strongly believe, is not only wrong; it is dangerous.”

Walt has reason to trust that the University will persevere and thrive. “This University has from its founding always been about a world-class education for students regardless of their socio economic status,” he says. “That’s a more important role now than ever. It’s our strength. It’s also going to be one of our largest challenges because there is plenty of evidence that there is a growing divide between the wealthiest and poorest Americans.”

As president, Walt built many real sidewalks between the buildings constructed under his watch. The programs they house and offer are vital to the success of the institution. Equally important are the metaphorical sidewalks. They connect and bond the University’s sense of shared purpose—to provide a world-class education to all who are admitted—and maintain a strong University community. Sidewalks, and connections, that will continue.

Eric Goldscheider is a freelance writer based in Massachusetts who specializes in writing articles for college and university magazines.
When President Walter Harrison concluded his inauguration message in 1999, he quoted the artist Prince’s hit song, “1999,” saying “now let’s party like it’s 1999.” Nineteen years later, it was party time again in the Chase Family Arena of the Sports Center as more than 600 people gathered on April 5 to celebrate Harrison’s “Legacy of Leadership.”

Everything about the party, from the food to the music to the mementos, reflected Harrison’s influence. The food station at the east end of the expansive room offered up pierogi and kielbasa with sauerkraut and onions, in honor of Harrison’s Pittsburgh roots. Another station served students’ menu favorites, sliders and macaroni and cheese because students were the focus of Harrison’s tenure. On the walk between the two stations, guests could consume popcorn and Cape Cod Creamery ice cream in deference to Harrison’s penchant for the Cape where he spends weekends and vacations as often as possible. The ice cream flavors included espresso with chocolate-covered espresso beans as Harrison is a known fan of caffeine.
The University pep band, under the energetic direction of Christine Gee, kept the arena’s vibes lively as the guests arrived. That was fitting since, with help from The Hartt School, Harrison introduced the pep band as well as a fight song and an alma mater to campus. Some of the students in the pep band decorated their horns with Harrison’s photo.

Near the arena entrance was a high-tech Viral Photo Booth where guests could don hats and/or boas and record personal messages for Harrison or simply have photos taken to send him a message. The booth was manned by its owner Steve Henn ’02, an entrepreneur and police officer in western Massachusetts. Among those who recorded at the booth were Annmarie and Robert Davis who teach theatre in The Hartt School. They recalled casting Harrison in two campus theatre productions, Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, based on Charles Dickens’s novel.

Praise and gratitude for what Harrison did for the University was on everyone’s lips. Many also noted the appropriateness of the venue since Harrison is an unfailing supporter of all University athletics. He had a nearly 100 percent presence courtside at Hawks basketball games where he was often the halftime radio interviewee and showed an abiding fascination with and appreciation for game strategy.
University Board of Regents Chair Lucille Nickerson assumed the role of MC on the colorfully decorated stage. Joining her on stage was a representative from each of the University’s key constituencies: Dominic Fulco ’81, vice chair of the board of regents, Carolyn Bligh ’92, president of the Alumni Association, Ben Ide, chair of the staff association, Ann Pidano, chair of the faculty senate, and Julia Piri ’17, president of the student government association.

Harrison and his wife Dianne entered the room to a fanfare played by a Hartt School brass ensemble. She joined other guests at a table in front of the stage and Harrison took a seat on the stage.

Nickerson introduced a short video tribute to Harrison and his accomplishments that played on the jumbotrons on either end of the arena. (View the video at hartford.edu/tribute.) In it many members of the University community express deep, heartfelt, and in some cases, emotional thanks to the man who encouraged everyone to call him Walt, stopped to talk to anyone who wanted to say something as he walked across campus, and who maintained an open-door policy in his office.

Nickerson then provided an overview of Harrison’s accomplishments before inviting Regent Tom Trillo ’79 to the stage for a special presentation. Trillo focused his remarks on Harrison’s leadership around athletics, noting that he is recognized nationally as an advocate for student athletes receiving a degree, he is a baseball scholar and aficionado, and he is an avid fan of the University’s athletic teams and programs. Trillo referred to the University’s last 19 years as a “championship season” and invited the crowd to watch as a championship banner that will hang in the arena in Harrison’s honor was unveiled as the pep band played the University fight song.
The banner unveiling was followed by the presentation of proclamations from Connecticut’s Governor, the Connecticut General Assembly, and a video message from U.S. Congressman John Larson who also read his tribute to Harrison into the Congressional Record.

Early in Harrison’s tenure he asked then professor of music composition Stephen Michael Gryc to compose an alma mater and a fight song for the University. For the party, Gryc composed an original fanfare that incorporates the complete alma mater. It was performed by the Hartt brass ensemble under the direction of Maestro Edward Cumming.

After the party, Gryc reflected on the importance Harrison placed on “enriching the culture of the University,” specifically by asking for an alma mater and a fight song.

“I jumped right on it,” said Gryc, “there are not many composers who have the opportunity to have that kind of lasting impact on a university.”

Harrison was joyful and smiling throughout the presentations but the final presentation prompted a full-on guffaw. As a boy growing up in Pittsburgh he wanted to be a Pirates shortstop when he grew up. That did not happen but Nickerson read a letter from Pittsburgh Pirates President Frank Coonelly who said, “We are very proud and humbled to know that you have remained loyal to the Pirates. Congratulations from your hometown and your hometown ball club!” Then Nickerson presented him with an authentic Pirates jersey with “Harrison” and the number 19 on the back.
When he came to the podium, Harrison thanked his wife Dianne, a scholar of 19th-century Victorian literature, for “giving up her hopes and dreams in life, so I could fulfill mine.” He pledged to let her determine the course of their remaining years together.

Harrison referred to his nearly two decades as president of the University as “the most fulfilling and the most joyous years of my life.”

As is characteristic, Harrison shared the credit for the many ways the University has grown and excelled, such as doubling the endowment, increasing the number of under-represented students by 300 percent, and building or renovating more than a dozen buildings. “We’ve done all this together. These are not things I would ever have been able to accomplish without this wonderful community,” he said.
While acknowledging the unveiled banner, he spotted in the crowd former women’s basketball coach and women’s Basketball Hall of Famer Jennifer Rizzotti who coached the Hartford Hawks to four America East Conference championships and four trips to the NCAA tournament. Harrison said her achievements are recognized with eight banners hanging from the rafters in the Chase Arena. “So I deserve one-ninth of that space and I’ll take that,” said Harrison. “When you are the president of a university you learn that your greatest job is to enable other people to do what they do.”

After the party, Rizzotti commented that Harrison “always asked what I needed to be successful,” and his “sense of loyalty made me feel special.”

Looking out at the arena from the stage set up along one side, Harrison recalled another time he saw the arena in that configuration, a visit to campus by President Barack Obama in 2013. He added that President Bill Clinton also came to campus soon after he left office. Bringing such notable people to campus was an achievement, but “I didn’t do that, we all did it,” said Harrison. “My 19 years at the helm of the University of Hartford have taught me the definition of community.”

This time Harrison’s closing line wasn’t from a popular rock song but rather was an ode to UHart. “This is a wonderful University. It is better than it is usually recognized for being and better than most of us think it is. I want you leaving here today not thinking, ‘Well, Walt Harrison was a great guy,’ but that he had the great privilege and honor of being president of the greatest University in the world.”
WALTER HARRISON

HARRISON HONORS

Hartford Business Journal Lifetime Achievement Award
On November 2, 2016, President Harrison received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hartford Business Journal, a quarter century old award-winning business news publication in Greater Hartford. The annual Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes greater Hartford business leaders who are making a positive impact on future generations through their community outreach activities, teaching others by example, and providing the leadership and guidance that creates Hartford’s future business leaders.

Boy Scout Hall of Fame and Outstanding Citizen Award
On January 5, 2017, President Harrison was inducted into the CT River Council’s Boy Scouts of America Mark Twain District Hall of Fame and received the Outstanding Citizen Award during an Eagle Scout Recognition dinner. An Eagle Scout himself, Harrison was recognized for his commitment to the Greater Hartford community, exemplifying the Eagle Scout’s call to maintain a lifetime commitment to one’s community.

Upper Albany Main Street Distinguished Service Award
On March 16, 2017, Upper Albany Main Street (UAMS) presented President Harrison with a Distinguished Service Award for his leadership of the University and his contributions in sustaining the UAMS mission which is to preserve, revitalize, and support the commercial district of Upper Albany Main Street in the city of Hartford. He was also celebrated for his leadership and involvement as a board member of major institutions, organizations, and agencies in greater Hartford.

Greenberg Center Panel Discussion
On April 6, 2017, the University’s Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies honored President Harrison with a special event titled, “A Conversation on Academics and Athletics.” Harrison, America East Conference Commissioner Amy Huchthausen, and ESPN reporter and host Andy Katz were panelists, and Greenberg Center Professor Avinoam Patt moderated the discussion. Harrison is nationally recognized for his work with the NCAA. He chaired the NCAA’s Committee on Academic Performance from its creation in 2004 to 2014 and received the prestigious NCAA President Gerald R. Ford Award in 2015 for his work to improve the academic success of student athletes. His doctoral dissertation, “Out of Play: Baseball Fiction from Pulp to Art,” was one of the earliest scholarly treatments of baseball and its place in American life.
Throughout his final year as University president, Walter Harrison received many well-deserved honors and recognitions.

**University Libraries renamed Harrison Libraries**
On May 5, 2017, University Libraries became Harrison Libraries thanks to a group of anonymous donors whose multimillion-dollar gift to fund renovation and expansion of the library called for it to be renamed for President Harrison. The renovated building features a three-story glass back wall that faces the Park River. The main level addition houses a “learning commons” with study spaces and a new resource desk. The upper level addition features balconies that look out over the learning commons, and the ground floor is the new home of Allen Library.

**New England Board of Higher Education Excellence Award**
On May 16, 2017, President Harrison was awarded the 2017 Connecticut Excellence Award during a ceremony at the State Capitol by the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE). Each year, NEBHE presents awards to individuals and organizations in each New England state, “for exemplifying, through their work, excellence in promoting sound education practices and policies, efficient sharing of education resources, and leadership to strengthen the relationship between higher education and the economic well-being of New England.”

**Faculty Senate Baseball Mementos**
Also on May 16, 2017, the University faculty senate acknowledged that Harrison is a long-time major league baseball fan and gifted him with baseball-themed mementos. First, he was told of a contribution made in his name to Roberto’s Kids, an organization devoted to nurturing social responsibility by using baseball to bridge the gap between different cultures. The organization is named for one of Harrison’s favorite baseball players, the late Roberto Clemente, who played right field for 18 seasons with Harrison’s beloved Pittsburgh Pirates. They also presented Harrison with an “official” University of Hartford baseball jersey with the number 19 to recognize his years of service, and with his own personalized career baseball card, complete with achievements such as having congratulated more than 30,000 graduates during his presidency.

**Walter Harrison Medal for Outstanding Leadership**
While presiding over his final University of Hartford Commencement on May 20, 2017, President Harrison received a newly created University medal that is named in his honor. The Walter Harrison Medal for Outstanding Leadership recognizes extraordinary dedication to the University. Harrison’s presidency spanned nearly a third of the University’s 60-year history. During that time, he was always focused on providing an excellent educational experience for students—and he monitored that experience by teaching classes, attending performances and athletic events, and talking to students while on frequent walks across campus.
America East Academic Cup Renamed to Honor Harrison

On June 21, 2017, the America East Athletic Conference, of which UHart is a member, announced that its Academic Cup is now named the Walter Harrison Academic Cup. The Cup, which is the America East’s highest academic institutional honor, is presented annually to the college or university whose student athletes post the highest grade point average during that academic year. Just a week after the Cup was renamed, the Hawks won it for 2016-17. Combining for a grade point average of 3.31—the highest GPA ever for an America East institution—the Hawks won the cup for the fifth time in six years.

Rising Star Award

On June 8, 2017, President Harrison received a “Rising Star Award” at an annual awards breakfast at the Connecticut Convention Center hosted by the MetroHartford Alliance, a business and economic development organization in the Hartford region, and the Hartford Business Journal. The award recognizes individuals and institutions that, through their leadership and accomplishments, are making “sustainable differences” in Hartford and the surrounding region.

University High School of Science and Engineering Graduation

On June 20, 2017, President Harrison delivered the keynote address at the University High School of Science and Engineering (UHSSE) graduation. Harrison was instrumental in the founding of UHSSE in 2004, making UHart the first private university in the country with two public magnet schools on campus—UHSSE and the University of Hartford Magnet School.

Official Portrait Unveiled

On June 15, 2017, President Harrison’s official portrait was unveiled during a farewell dinner hosted by the Board of Regents in the newly expanded space inside Harrison Libraries. The portrait hangs in the library alongside the portraits of four previous presidents. During the dinner it was announced that the regents granted Harrison the status of president emeritus.
It is a real pleasure to welcome Gregory Woodward to the University as our next president.

I have often pondered what I would like to see in my successor, and I think the search committee has delivered on everything I could have asked for: someone who is deeply devoted to the role of higher education in preparing students for careers, for becoming citizens in a democracy, and for leading rich and fulfilling lives. He has been a leader in fostering research and creativity among faculty, valuing the role that both staff and faculty play in creating a supportive environment on campus, and in connecting alumni to their alma mater.

Greg is well prepared to lead the University in the challenging environment all of us face in higher education today. He has been a musician, composer, composition faculty member, admission director, dean, interim provost, and college president. His résumé is rich and full of the experiences we would all want our next president to have. But he has also been an NCAA Division I student athlete, a leader in two communities, and an active and successful fundraiser.

Most importantly, he knows the University of Hartford. Raised in West Hartford, and a graduate of Hall High School, he studied saxophone with Jackie McLean, and experienced the devotion and genius of Moshe Paranov. He has this area and this University in his DNA. He would be the first to tell you it has been over 40 years since he left, but there are some things you never forget.

Greg has a vision for the University’s future and an excitement for its values and traditions. He respects what we are, and has the courage and the insight to lead us to what we can become.

I can’t wait to see what he does in leading the University of Hartford.

Walter Harrison
President Emeritus
Dear Fellow Alumni,

Change is one thing that’s constant. Change brings opportunity and a renewed commitment to the future. The coming school year will be an exciting time for the University as we welcome our new president with much enthusiasm, support, and optimism. The past year was one of celebration as we paid tribute to President Walter Harrison for his leadership and accomplishments, which span nearly two decades. I hope you were able to attend the alumni farewell celebrations held throughout the year and across the country. There is a lot to be grateful for, and having your support and participation during this time of change will be important as we build our future together.

In December and May, I had the privilege of speaking at the Fall and Spring Commencement Ceremonies and welcoming more than 1,400 new alumni into the Alumni Association. I shared with them that I want them to think of the Alumni Association as a family that they’ll always have. And, like family, we want to see and hear from them (and you) often! Connect with us on social media and email, by phone, and by visiting campus. Start planning to come to Hawktober Weekend now. It’s such an enjoyable experience, just like a warm welcome home. It is never too late to reconnect with your alma mater.

We hope to hear from you and see you soon! The 2017–18 academic year will be a historic one for us all. Let’s celebrate together!

Carolyn Reibling Bligh ’87
President
University of Hartford Alumni Association

Follow the Alumni Association on social media:
facebook.com/UHartfordAlumni twitter.com/UHartfordAlumni Instagram.com/uhartalumni

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD Alumni Board, 2016–17

Officers
Carolyn Reibling Bligh ’87, President
Amy Ekross Quigley ’93, Vice-President
Kerrie Sullivan ’93, Treasurer
Mary Murphy ’04, Governance Committee Chair

Board of Regents (ex officio)
Paul A. Sittard ’85

College Liaisons
David Bosco M’04, for ENHP
Jolie Rocke Brown ’89, for HAS
Michaela Ann Catarozzi ’11, for CETA
Mandy Gerstein A’05, ’07, for Hillyer
John M. Jaramillo M’09, M’15, for Barney
Sean O’Donovan ’14, for CAS*
Nancy Bengman Pantirer ’72, for HAS*

Directors
Benjamin C. Accardo ’12, Students and Young Alumni
Matthew C. Cooke ’10, Communications and Social Media
Scott Hill ’96, Athletics Affinity
David Joyce ’93, Co-Director, Regional Programs and Volunteers
Maureen Fulton Leathers ’05, Career/Mentoring
Madison Norwich ’16, Co-Director, Regional Programs and Volunteers

Members at Large
Anthony G. Barrett ’03
Paul Brand ’02
Ryleigh Johns ’20, Student Director*

Student Directors
Cori Anagno ’18, Student Government Association Representative
Marianne Sayamath ’12, Graduate Student Director

*New member P: Alumni parent

To learn more about becoming a Board member, or to get involved as a volunteer, log on to anchoronline.org/get-involved.

DEGREE KEY

Alumni Connections entries are distinguished as follows:
A associate degree
AD artist diploma
C sixth-year certificate
D doctorate
GPD graduate professional diploma
M master’s degree
ND nondegree alumnus/a

No letter designation before a degree year indicates a bachelor’s degree. P indicates the parent of a student or alumnus/a.

1963
Alumna ROSE FICHERA-EAGEN (BARNEY), M’85 (BARNEY) of Hartford, Conn., continues to operate Rose’s Boutique in the basement of Church Street Cathedral in Hartford, Conn. Through the Boutique, she takes in clothes and passes them along to the needy.

1964
MARILYN SMITH NOLL (A&S) of Pittsburgh, Pa., had her book of poetry, Ordinary Tasks, published by MADBOOKS.

1965
BETTY SLUSNY (HARTT), M’68 (HARTT) of Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany celebrated 16 years of teaching for the military at Ramstein Air Force Base.

1966
STEPHEN LAWRENCE THOMSON (A&S) of Hilo, Hawaii, has been an adjunct professor at Hawai’i Community College since 2003. He has authored a book titled Dialogues and Contemplations in Thought, Meaning and Life.

1968
WALTER BAILEY (HAS) of Detroit, Mich., had his art for this century and the next displayed at the Charles H. Wright Museum in Detroit, Mich., beginning in January 2017.

1970
The works of ROBERT GREGSON (HAS) of Orange, Connecticut, were part of an exhibit at Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn.
The works of noted New England artist ROBERT MANNING (HAS) of Danville, Vt., were featured in an exhibition titled Robert Manning: A Retrospective at the Catamount Art’s Main Gallery in St. Johnsbury, Vt.

PAUL ROWEAN (Barney), M’74 (BARNEY) of Portland, Conn., wrote a book titled Lean Ideatown. It explores the way 70 percent of new products introduced do not meet customer expectations and are taken off the market within three years.

1971 DONNA INFANTINO (HAS) of Branford, Conn., had an exhibition of work displayed at the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library in Stony Creek, Conn.

1973 Painter and Printmaker ROBERT DENTE (HAS) of West Hartford, Conn., had his works displayed in an exhibit called Come Meet Me in a Dream in the TDP Gallery at Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn.

KARIN (ARENTZEN) STAHL M (ENHP) of Bloomfield, Conn., has written her first book, The Option: a Memoir of Suicide, Mystery and Finding Our Way, which captures her personal journey after the loss of her daughter, Kristina, to suicide. Karin is a communications consultant.

1974 DOUGLAS WORTHEN (HARTT), D’07 (HARTT) of Carbondale, Ill., was promoted to associate professor of flute and music history, and received tenure from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

1975 The HONORABLE ROBERT N. DAVIS (A&S) of St. Petersburg, Fla., a judge for the United States Court of Appeals for Veteran Affairs, was elevated to the position of Chief Judge at a passing of the gavel ceremony in Washington, D.C.

JOE WOCOSKI M (BARNEY) of Gaithersburg, Md., was chosen as the English language winner at the 2016 Winners of Imagine Little Tokyo Short Story Contest. The story, “The Last Master of Go,” is now in publication.

1977 NICOLETTE BANBURY (A&S), M’98 (A&S) of Marlborough, Conn., authored the article, “Case Study: Play Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing for Pediatric Single Incident Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Developmental Regression,” published in the International Journal of Play Therapy. Stamford High School Music Teacher GLORIA DICAMILLO-SINAGUGLIA (HARTT), of Stamford, Conn., was named the Stamford Teacher of the Year.

1978 The works of DAVID BORWASKI (HAS) of Hartford, Conn., were shown at an exhibit in Warsaw, Poland, as well as Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn., and EBK Gallery and Real Art Ways in Hartford, Conn.

Musical America Worldwide selected DAVID KATZ (HARTT), AD’84 (HARTT), M’89 (HARTT) of Danbury, Conn., as one of their top professionals of the year for his work founding and sustaining The American Prize, the national nonprofit competitions in the performing arts.

1981 Farmington, Conn.-based Motorlease promoted longtime employee BRADFORD LUTZ A’77 (WARD), (A&S) of Farmington, Conn., to vice president.

STEVEN BROWN A’80 (WARD), (A&S) of Bloomfield, Conn., surpassed the 34-year mark as an employee with the Hewlett-Packard Company (now Hewlett-Packard Enterprises).

1982 ALLAN CONWAY (HARTT) of Manchester, Conn., was the subject of a “Conversation” published in The Journal Inquirer in September. The piece profiled his role as music minister at the United Congregational Church in Tolland, Conn.

1983 Westox Labs named MATTHEW WATSON M (BARNEY) of Mission Viejo, Calif., its chief executive officer.

1984 ELIZABETH FISHER A’82 (A&S), (A&S) of New Britain, Conn., was appointed executive director at Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc. in Meriden, Conn.

TIMOTHY MACEK M’84 (HARTT) of Chevy Chase, Md., has joined the staff of the Westerhoff-RFA Music Camp, a week-long camp for students ages 8 to 18. He is a faculty member at Howard University.

CHUCK PAGANO (CETA), M’07 (A&S) of Waterbury, Conn., was inducted into the prestigious Consumer Technology Hall of Fame. He was cited as a Transformational Technologist for his work with ESPN.

1985 MICHÈLE GUILLET HELMIN (BARNEY), M’84 (BARNEY) of Manchester, Conn., has been appointed director of external affairs at the Ethel Walker School, an independent, grade six through twelve, all-girls school in Simsbury, Conn.

Sypris Solutions, Inc., promoted JAMES M. LONG, JR. M (BARNEY) of Odessa, Fla., to vice president and general manager of its subsidiary, Sypris Electronics, LLC.

ERIK WEEXLER A’83 (HILLYER), (A&S) of Manhattan Beach, Calif., was named chief executive officer and senior vice president of Providence Health & Services in Southern California. He received an Alumni Association Anchor Award in 2014.

SUSAN HANJIAN (HARTT) of Waterbury, Conn., was named 2016 Outstanding Music Educator by the Connecticut Music Educators Association.
1986
DONALD ALLAN JR. (BARNEY) of Glastonbury, Conn., was elected as the lead independent director on the Andersen Corporation Board of Directors. Allan, senior vice president and chief financial officer for Stanley Black & Decker, Inc., joined the Andersen Board in November 2014.

BRENT HAZZARD M (BARNEY) of Sandy Hook, Conn., has been named head of structured finance at Citizens Commercial Banking. He joined Citizens from GE Capital.

ASTRID JARVIS (A&S) of Douglaston, N.Y., has enjoyed a career as an administrative assistant and city employee for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. In that role, she has transcribed reports for psychologists and has assisted clinics with various administrative duties.

Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y. named SYDNEY ROSE LEO M (BARNEY) of Danvers, Mass., as its vice president for finance. She joined Hartwick from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.

1987
SCOTT BANELL M (BARNEY) of Farmington, Conn., has retired after 40 years with Stanley Black & Decker.

The Arizona State University School of Music welcomed BRADLEY EDWARDS (HARTT) of Columbia, S.C., as an associate professor of trombone. He has appeared as a highly regarded soloist before audiences around the country.

JOHN SIMONIAN (A&S) of Welfleet, Mass. was elected to the Board of Directors of the Community Development Partnership, a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on lower Cape Cod, Mass.

1989
Soprano JOLIE ROCHE BROWN (HARTT) of Houston, Texas, was the featured performer for the “America My Home...” Recital held at The DeLUXE Theater in Houston, Texas.

F. SAM GRIGGS, CCP FAACE M (BARNEY), was selected as a 2016 AACE Fellow. Griggs is a certified cost professional.

Dwarven Forge, a company started by STEFAN POKORNY (HAS), M’94 (HAS) of Brooklyn, N.Y., was listed by Forbes Magazine as the second most successful Kickstarter-funded company. A documentary on Pokorny’s life titled The Dwaravelnut premiered at the SXSW Film Festival.

Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) in Branchburg, N.J., promoted VIRGINIA SMITH ’89 (HAS) of Ewing, N.J., to assistant professor. She created RVCC’s Associate of Science in Interior Design Program and serves as its coordinator.

1990
The love and life story of RAY PHILIPPON (BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., his wife Leesa, and their family was featured in a Hartford Courant (Hartford, Conn.). The article described the family’s journey before and after Ray and wife, Leesa, lost their Marine son, Larry, in Iraq in 2005.

1991
SCOTT MacGREGOR (A&S) of Madison, Conn., founder and CEO of SomethingNew, won the 2016 American Business Award for Innovation.

JAMIE McCARTNEY (HAS) of Brigh- ton, UK, had his work displayed as part of Brighton Photo Fringe. His exhibition, titled Bra Spangled Banner, features national flags made from images of hundreds of volunteers in their underwear.

ANGI SHEARSTONE (HAS) of Ashford, Conn., was the artist-in-residence at Weir Farm National Park in Wilton, Conn., during February 2016.

Peapack-Gladstone Financial Corporation and Peapack-Gladstone Bank announced the appointment of STUART VORCHEIMER A’89 (HILLYER), (BARNEY) of Wayne, N.J., as senior managing director and market president.

1992
In November of 2015, RICHARD KACICH M (BARNEY) moved to New Mexico to become deputy director at Los Alamos National Laboratory, one of the premier institutions in the nation. Kacich has 40 years of nuclear industry experience in the private and public sectors.

Advisor Partners announced that SCOTT R. RUDDICK (BARNEY) of Hingham, Mass., has joined the firm as its managing director. Most recently, he was managing director of business development, North America, at Mellon Capital Management, where he spent 14 years.

JEANETTE ZYKO (HARTT) of Harrisonburg, Va., joined the faculty of James Madison University School of Music as assistant professor of oboe.

1993
Former UHart women’s basketball standout MARY JANE BEsselink A’91 (HILLYER), (A&S) of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, was inducted into the Kingston and District Sports Hall of Fame.

RUSS BLATT (CETA), M’96 (BARNEY) of Plainview, N.Y., has undertaken a new project titled “Obstacle Course Racing.” It is the first mobile calendar application for the obstacle racing world.

On behalf of his team at the Office of Financial Services, Project Management Office, MARK WINARSKY A’89 (HILLYER), (A&S), M’93 (BARNEY) of Atlanta, Ga., accepted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2015 Honor Award for Excellence in Grants and Contracts Administration.

DAVID KOSKI (BARNEY) of Sandy Hook, CT, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Community Development Partnership, a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on lower Cape Cod, Mass.

The love and life story of RAY PHILIPPON (BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., his wife Leesa, and their family was featured in a Hartford Courant (Hartford, Conn.). The article described the family’s journey before and after Ray and wife, Leesa, lost their Marine son, Larry, in Iraq in 2005.

1996
Sixty-five paintings by DONNA FESTA M (HAS) of Bangor, Maine, were exhibited at the prestigious Pen and Brush Gallery in New York City.

Former UHart women’s basketball standout MARY JANE BEsselink A’91 (HILLYER), (A&S) of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, was inducted into the Kingston and District Sports Hall of Fame.

RUSS BLATT (CETA), M’96 (BARNEY) of Plainview, N.Y., has undertaken a new project titled “Obstacle Course Racing.” It is the first mobile calendar application for the obstacle racing world.

On behalf of his team at the Office of Financial Services, Project Management Office, MARK WINARSKY A’89 (HILLYER), (A&S), M’93 (BARNEY) of Atlanta, Ga., accepted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2015 Honor Award for Excellence in Grants and Contracts Administration.

Composer PETER BOYER M (HARTT), D’95 (HARTT) of Altadena, Calif., has a new website, PropulsiveMusic.com. Highlights include new videos and tracks recorded recently with the Hollywood Studio Symphony and Choir at the historic Sony Scoring Stage.

Lawyer GREGG HARRISON (BARNEY) of Houston, Texas, staged a unique and highly successful gathering titled Power Lawyers Social at Peska in Houston, TX. The affair was a mix and mingle where plaintiff and defense lawyers rubbed elbows with sitting judges and those who hold the gavel, and where Democrats and Republicans “played nice.”

GRETCHEN NELSON M (ENHP), D’14 (ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., became the director of pupil services for the West Hartford Public Schools. Previously, she was the principal at Hall High School.

DAN BLANCHARD M (ENHP) of Storrs Mansfield, Conn., is an award-winning author, speaker, and educator, as well as a parenting expert, life coach, columnist, veteran of two military branches, two-time junior Olympic wrestler, and two-time junior Olympic coach.

JOHN SIMONIAN (A&S) of Welfleet, Mass. was elected to the Board of Directors of the Community Development Partnership, a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on lower Cape Cod, Mass.

1999
Former UHart women’s basketball standout MARY JANE BEsselink A’91 (HILLYER), (A&S) of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, was inducted into the Kingston and District Sports Hall of Fame.

RUSS BLATT (CETA), M’96 (BARNEY) of Plainview, N.Y., has undertaken a new project titled “Obstacle Course Racing.” It is the first mobile calendar application for the obstacle racing world.

On behalf of his team at the Office of Financial Services, Project Management Office, MARK WINARSKY A’89 (HILLYER), (A&S), M’93 (BARNEY) of Atlanta, Ga., accepted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2015 Honor Award for Excellence in Grants and Contracts Administration.

Composer PETER BOYER M (HARTT), D’95 (HARTT) of Altadena, Calif., has a new website, PropulsiveMusic.com. Highlights include new videos and tracks recorded recently with the Hollywood Studio Symphony and Choir at the historic Sony Scoring Stage.

Lawyer GREGG HARRISON (BARNEY) of Houston, Texas, staged a unique and highly successful gathering titled Power Lawyers Social at Peska in Houston, TX. The affair was a mix and mingle where plaintiff and defense lawyers rubbed elbows with sitting judges and those who hold the gavel, and where Democrats and Republicans “played nice.”

GRETCHEN NELSON M (ENHP), D’14 (ENHP) of West Hartford, Conn., became the director of pupil services for the West Hartford Public Schools. Previously, she was the principal at Hall High School.

DAN BLANCHARD M (ENHP) of Storrs Mansfield, Conn., is an award-winning author, speaker, and educator, as well as a parenting expert, life coach, columnist, veteran of two military branches, two-time junior Olympic wrestler, and two-time junior Olympic coach.

1996
Sixty-five paintings by DONNA FESTA M (HAS) of Bangor, Maine, were exhibited at the prestigious Pen and Brush Gallery in New York City.

Daylon Martin (Barney) of Danbury, Conn., is the technology program coordinator at the Danbury (Conn.) Library and acts as a liaison to the Danbury Hackerspace located in the Danbury Innovation Center annexed to the Library.
The Daughters of the American Revolution announced that SUSAN ROSENSTEIN M (ENHP) of Bloomfield, Conn., has been selected as their 2015 Outstanding Teacher of American History. She is an eighth-grade teacher at East Granby Middle School in East Granby, Conn.

1999
Horizon Technology Finance Corporation appointed DANIEL R. TROLIO M (BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., as its vice president and interim chief financial officer. He has been in charge of the company’s accounting functions as well as tax and financial reporting.

2000
JASON J. BARR (A&S) of Metuchen, N.J., is the dean of the College of Education & Rehabilitation at Salus University in Philadelphia, Pa. He was previously associate dean in the School of Education at Monmouth University in N.J.

NASA teamed with JAVIER COLON (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., to create a music video co-performed with Matt Cusson. The song, “The Moon and More,” was inspired by the Luna Reconnaissance Orbiter mission, and produced in collaboration with NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., and veteran producer/editor David Ladd.

2001
JEANNINE GIUSTINO (ENHP) of New Hyde Park, N.Y., received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in social work with a concentration in gerontology from Fordham University.

2002
MATT MARGOLIS (WARD) of Silver Creek, N.Y., published a book titled, The Worst President in History: the Legacy of Barack Obama. It became a Kindle bestseller on Amazon.com.

Assistant professor of organ at the Florida State University, DR. IAN QUINN (HARTT), of Tallahassee, Fla., received a Fulbright Scholar Award and taught in the Russian Federation.

2003
MATTHEW BROOKS (HARTT) of Harrisonburg, Va., joined the faculty at Shasta College in Redding, Calif., where he conducts the student orchestra, and teaches music theory and keyboard skills courses.

The university relations team at the University of Maryland added DIANA FORBUS (A&S) of Columbia, Md., as its development coordinator for the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

2004
AMIEL “AMI” HERSH (ENHP) See ELANA “LONI” HERSH B’03 (ENHP), M’05 (ENHP)

See ELANA “LONI” HERSH B’03 (ENHP), M’05 (ENHP)
For the second year in a row, THOMAS NELSON (A&S) of Colchester, Conn., received a Boston/New England Emmy for editing television essentials for the show “Made in Connecticut” on Connecticut Public Broadcasting.

LaPiastra of Cromwell, Conn. owned by LAUREN DELISA SIEGEL (BARNEY) of Cromwell, was named “Best Gourmet to Go,” by Hartford Magazine in its “Best of” edition. Siegel and her team of chefs prepare fresh “to go” meals every day.

2005

MICHELE GORDON (ENHP) of Lake Oswego, Ore., joined the Portland (Ore.) Clinic as an occupational therapist. She specializes in treating upper extremity injuries.

KELLY TREMAINE M (BARNEY) of Westerly, Conn., became associate publisher of The Westerly Sun, the Mystic River Press, and the South County Press. He is responsible for local business operations and community relations of the Sun Media Group.

MARLENE KURBAN M (BARNEY) of Bristol, Conn., has received national recognition as a top-ten finalist for the Killer Nashville Claymore Award. Her novel, Under Suspicion, is a thriller about a woman abducted while on vacation in St. Maarten.

2006

The Jackson Symphony Orchestra (Jackson, Mich.) named MATTHEW AUBIN M (HARTT), D’10 (HARTT) music director designate. He has conducted and performed internationally. Dr. Aubin is a passionate advocate for American and contemporary music.

DAVID DAYE (BARNEY) of Hartford, Conn. LAURA DINAN HABER ’07 (BARNEY) of New Britain, Conn., and MEHMET BAKKALOGLU M (BARNEY), M’09 (BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., were among those included among the Hartford Business Journal’s (Hartford, Conn.) “40 Under Forty” in 2016. Daye is managing director of the Hartford Region Open Choice Program for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Haber is director of investor events for the MetroHartford Alliance, and Bakkaloglu is the chief financial officer for OFI.

Dental lab technician and artist JOANNA GARREN (HAS) of South Windsor, Conn., was featured in Lab Management Today for her collection of original paintings that were exhibited at Tunxis Community College in Farmington, Conn.

LAUREN LARSON (CETA) of Gales Ferry, Conn., was promoted to construction manager, moored training ship, at Electric Boat.

Rapper CHEZARE MILLER (BARNEY) of East Hartford, Conn., was profiled on his hometown website, Sudbury.com. He performs under the name CheZZa and released an album titled I am. . .

EDWIN R. MUENZNER, CPA M (BARNEY) of Norwich, Conn., and BRENDAN HEALY, CPA M’15 (BARNEY) of Colchester, Conn., were elected to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants. Muenzner is owner of Edwin R. Muenzner, CPA, LLC in Franklin, Conn., and Healy, elected as secretary, is a tax director with Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C., in Hartford, Conn.

2007

The inspiring story of DARTRAY BELK (A&S) of Hempstead, N.Y., was profiled in a sundayu blog. It detailed his journey from a youth growing up in the housing projects in Queens, N.Y., to that of a NYC police officer who works as a community affairs liaison officer with the 26th precinct in Harlem, N.Y.

Artists FIONA CLARK CHINKAN (HAS) of Brooklyn, N.Y., and MARIA DOERING (HAS) of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, are working together in a collaborative residency project titled “Shared Energies: Cells, Stars and the Fluidity Between.”

The Associated General Contractors of Connecticut has awarded Gilbane Building Company’s CAROLINA CEDEMUS M (BARNEY) of West Hartford, Conn., 2016 Project Manager of the Year. Cedemus is the current deputy director for the New Haven Schools Capital Program.

LAURA DINAN HABER ’07 (BARNEY) See DAVID DAYE ’06 (BARNEY)

Bronze Radio Return, with front man CHRIS HENDERSON (HARTT) of Hartford, Conn., released the new single, “Only Temporary,” from their latest album Light Me Up. The group made its recordings at Sonic Ranch Studios in El Paso, Texas.

Artnews.com published a “Talk” with painter SAM MCKINNIS (HAS) of New York, N.Y. The article, focusing on his life and work, was titled “It Has to be Tragic or Somewhat Manic-Depressive: A Talk with Sam Mckinniss.”

JESSICA FINE SOWALSKY A’05 (HILL’YER), (A&S) of Bethesda, Md., joined the Division of Information Technology at the University of Maryland as part of the Learning Technology Strategy Group.

2008

ANNA BLANCHARD (BARNEY) of Norwalk, Conn., spent a month in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, activating a client’s Rio 2016 Olympics and Paralympic Sponsorship for Octagon, a global sports marketing agency based in Norwalk, Conn.

RYAN SPEEDO GREEN (HARTT) of Tallahassee, Fla., who played the lead in the Metropolitan Opera’s production of La Boheme, was a guest on the popular NPR show Fresh Air. In addition, his leap from a troubled childhood to opera’s grandest stage is the subject of a book titled Sing for Your Life: A Story of Race, Music and Family by Daniel Bergner.

2009

JESSICA FAULDS (HAS) of Hastings on Hudson, N.Y., had her collection of oil pastel paintings exhibited at the Loft Gallery at the Smithy Store in New Preston, Conn. Her work has been selected for a number of awards and exhibitions.

Northwestern Mutual added JONATHAN HERRON (A&S) of Voorhees, N.J., as a financial advisor. His national practice is located in Mt. Laurel, N.J.

BURAK KONUK M (BARNEY), M (CETA) of Indianapolis, Ind., was named a lead traffic/ITS engineer in the Tampa, Fla., office of WSP PB Parson Brinckerhoff, one of the world’s largest global infrastructure strategic consulting, engineering, and program/construction management organizations.

BRANDT NIGRO M (A&S), C (A&S) of Baltimore, Md., became the assistant swimming coach at Marshall University. He joined the Thundering Herd after two seasons as an assistant coach at University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

JACKIE ROCHE (HAS) of Chicago, Ill., had two of her nonfiction comics accepted into the Society of Illustrators 2016 Comic and Cartoon Art Annual in the digital media category. The stories are “Survive and Thrive: How Big Data is Transforming Healthcare” (for Symbolia, online, in partnership with Pacific Standard) and “Underemployed” (for Fusion).

2010

PATRICK J. FIORILLO (HARTT) of Franklin, Mass., was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, Mass.

ADAM FONTANA M (HARTT) of Kansas City, Mo., was appointed an assistant professor of music and director of instrumental music at Bethel College in N. Newton, Kan. He conducts the Bethel Wind Ensemble and Bethel Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as teach courses in music and music education.
manipulate matter, and have command over nature?

Former Hawks’ cross country runner and track performer, STEFANIE LOMBARDI (ENHP) of North Providence, R.I., was among the North Providence Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2016 honorees. She is the school’s record holder in the 1,000 meters for indoor track.

HOLLIE LYKO (HAS) of Fayetteville, N.C., began her Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture at Syracuse University.

SEAN McKNIGHT (ENHP) of Ridgefield, Conn., joined Joint Chiropractic in San Antonio, Texas, as a staff doctor. He earned his Doctor of Chiropractic from New York Chiropractic College in 2012 and worked in New York City for a time before relocating to San Antonio.

2011

RACQUEL FATIUK-WILKERSON (HARTT) of Spring, Texas, won the Mrs. Texas United State 2016 title at the pageant held at the Bayou Theater in Clear Lake, Texas. It is the official state preliminary to the Mrs. United States Pageant.

2012

BAYLA ARIETTA (HAS) of New Haven, Conn., was commissioned by the Peabody Museum of Natural History to paint a Deinonychus dinosaur, or what Jurassic Park audiences would know as a Velociraptor, on an oil tank at the entrance of New Haven Harbor. The Peabody has also commissioned Arietta for a long-term project: illustrations for its Discovery room.

A seasoned performer, Scottsboro Boys. A seasoned performer, his is a proud alumnus of The Boys Choir of Harlem.

Former Hawks’ cross country runner and track performer, STEFANIE LOMBARDI (ENHP) of North Providence, R.I., was among the North Providence Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2016 honorees. She is the school’s record holder in the 1,000 meters for indoor track.

HOLLIE LYKO (HAS) of Fayetteville, N.C., began her Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture at Syracuse University.

SEAN McKNIGHT (ENHP) of Ridgefield, Conn., joined Joint Chiropractic in San Antonio, Texas, as a staff doctor. He earned his Doctor of Chiropractic from New York Chiropractic College in 2012 and worked in New York City for a time before relocating to San Antonio.

2011

RACQUEL FATIUK-WILKERSON (HARTT) of Spring, Texas, won the Mrs. Texas United State 2016 title at the pageant held at the Bayou Theater in Clear Lake, Texas. It is the official state preliminary to the Mrs. United States Pageant.

2012

BAYLA ARIETTA (HAS) of New Haven, Conn., was commissioned by the Peabody Museum of Natural History to paint a Deinonychus dinosaur, or what Jurassic Park audiences would know as a Velociraptor, on an oil tank at the entrance of New Haven Harbor. The Peabody has also commissioned Arietta for a long-term project: illustrations for its Discovery room.
LEA RUSSO (HAS) of Torrington, Conn., and KRISTA M. NARCISO '15 (HAS) of Watertown, Conn., had their works displayed as emerging artists at the Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn.

Avid Marketing Group welcomed EMILY TRACYE M (BARNEY) of Glastonbury, Conn., to its team as a senior analyst. She is analyzing the effectiveness of clients’ shopper marketing programs.

2015

NOAH BLOCKER-GLYNN M (HARTT) of Simsbury, Conn., was featured in an article that appeared in the Valley Press (Conn.). Blocker-Glynn is the director of UHart’s Hartt Community Division, and the article focused on the Community Division’s efforts to extend itself to surrounding communities, specifically establishing a satellite location in Simsbury, Conn.

Co-producer RYAN CASEY M (A&S) of Bristol, Conn., has created and directed a television series pilot titled Gener’s People shot in Connecticut. The show is a dark comedy about an up-and-coming business, Gener’s Juice Bar, at the forefront of the ‘90s juicing boom in a small, conservative town.

NICHOLAS EISENSTEIN (HARTT) of Basking Ridge, N.J., joined Jungle City Studios in Manhattan, N.Y. as an assistant. Basking Ridge, N.J., joined Jungle City Studios in Manhattan, N.Y. as an assistant.

BRANDON HEALY, CPA M (BARNEY)

See EDWIN R. MUENZNER, CPA M’06 (BARNEY)


KRISTA M. NARCISO (HAS)

See LEA RUSSO ’14 (HAS)

Soprano NADIA AGUILAR REGALADO (HARTT) of West Hartford, Conn., won the American Opera Idol 2016 title. The competition, held in the shadow of the University at the Pond House Café in West Hartford’s Elizabeth Park, featured nearly 60 contestants from around the world.

AARON SARWAR (CETA) of West Hartford, Conn., has acquired the rights to Hartford City FC, an expansion professional soccer team from Hartford, Conn., that will play in the National Premier Soccer League.

CHRIS SAYER M (BARNEY) of Canton, Conn., along with his wife, Christina, have opened Brewery Legitimus, a craft brewery located in New Hartford, Conn. Two Hartford Community College musicians from Hartford, Conn., have created Brewery Legitimus to bring locally crafted, high quality beer to Northwest, Conn.

SUSANNAH STRONG M (HAS) of Exeter, R.I., won a $25,000 MacColl Johnson Fellowship from the Rhode Island Foundation to pursue work on a graphic novel. Her novel, Moth, is the story of twin sisters who are separated when a tragic fire in a circus tent kills their parents.

2016

Seven Hartford Art School alumni were part of an exhibition of outdoor works at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, Conn. The seven sculpture alumni participating were DYLAN AHERN of Nesconset, N.Y., KC CHESTER of Wallingford, Conn., MATT DONDORE of Vernon, Conn., KEVIN HERNANDEZ of Hartford, Conn., LEXI MUSINSKI of Colchester, Conn., AUDREY RYAN of Fairfield, Conn., and TAYLOR SHAFFER of Colchester, Conn. The community project was made possible by an HAS Endowment, Inc. board member.

Music teacher REBECCA BERNARDO (HARTT) of Pleasant Valley, N.Y., has begun a band program for seventh and eighth graders at the Dunbar School in Bridgeport, Conn., where she works. Lending a hand in inspiring the students to participate was the Hartt trombone studio’s Crimson Quartet who visited the school and interacted with the students in October.

With a time of 18:06, former UHart track student-athlete SARA BUCKLEY (A&S) of Guilderland, N.Y., won the women’s 5K (among 1,952 finishers) at the 2016 Eversource Hartford (Conn.) Marathon.

LAVINA V. CORREA M (CETA) of Houston, Texas, became sales application engineer for Foreverlamp. She will be responsible for providing technical and application support to key customers, engineers, channel partners, and the internal/external field sales team.

CHAZ DAVIS (A&S) of Grafton, Mass., competed in Rio as a member of the United States Paralympic Track and Field Team. He lost his vision as a freshman, suffering from a rare disease (Leber hereditary optic neuropathy) that destroys the eyes’ optic nerve.

LIZZY SYNALOVSKI (HAS) from Succasunna, N.J., joined Brown/ RISD Hillel as an engagement associate, met with RACHEL HOROWITZ ’12 (A&S) from Washington, D.C., a talent associate with Hillel International, along with a group of current students at the Hillel Institute at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

The Class Notes in this issue reflect those received from May–November 2016.

Class Notes submitted since then are accessible online at Hartford.edu in the alumni section under the tab Stay Connected.

#UHart4Life

BANNERS

Are you getting married or planning an alumni event? We would like to send you a banner so you can take pictures and promote UHart—as long as you send us a copy to share on social media and in the Observer.

BABY ONESIE

Have you recently had a baby? We want to send along a baby onesie, which will make for a great photo opportunity. Send us those pics as well.

Grayson LeRoy, son of Melanie (Angel) LeRoy M’13 (Barney) and Matthew LeRoy ’09 (A&S) models the UHart Baby Onesie.

VANITY LICENSE PLATE

Attention Connecticut Alumni residents! Show your UHart pride by ordering an UHart Connecticut vanity license plate.

To secure a banner, baby onesie, or to find out how to get your license plate, email alumni@hartford.edu.

Expanded version of Class Notes available at anchoronline.org/class-notes/past
LISA (BELVAL) NOVAKOWSKI ’06, M’08 (A&S), C’09 (A&S) and Paul Novakowski of Thomaston, Conn., were married August 27, 2016, at Rosedale Farms in Simsbury. The bride is pupil services specialist for the Connecticut Department of Corrections. The groom is general manager at Nova Metal Finishing.

DANA CHERYL NATHANSON ’09 (ENHP) of East Rutherford, N.J., and Alexander Harold Rosenthal were married July 24, 2016, at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston, N.J. The bride is a first-grade teacher at Crescent Elementary School in Waldwick, N.J., while the groom is a real estate associate at the New York law firm Shearman & Sterling.

RENEE SANDLER KRANE ’10 (A&S) and JASON KRANE ’10 (A&S) were married November 6, 2016, at The Palace in Somerset, N.J. The bride is in marketing in a division of UL, and the groom is a development nonprofit professional for the Jewish Federation in the heart of New Jersey. They currently reside in East Windsor, N.J.

ANGELA (BETHONEY) HEALEY ’14 (HARTT) and CRAIG HEALEY ’12 (CETA) were married August 6, 2016, in Plymouth, Mass., at the Pine Hills Country Club. Angela is in her third year at Quinnipiac University School of Law. She will be a judicial clerk at the Connecticut Appellate Court beginning in June 2017. Craig works as an acoustics engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat and will graduate in May from WPI with a master’s degree in mechanical engineering. The couple resides in Norwich, Conn.

JULIANA CARRILLO ’08 (BARNEY) and ANDREW MacTAGGART M’06 (BARNEY) were married July 30, 2016, at Wood Acres Farm in Terryville, Conn. Alumni GREG MELLOR ’06, M’10, KERRY HASSELL ’06, VICKI MAKKAS ’08, M’10, MAYA STOJAN ’08, ZEYNEP SERDER M’06, MATT ORCUTT ’00, ALISON ORCUTT ’00, and HEIDI HINGAM ’11 were in attendance. The couple lives in West Hartford. The bride works at Prudential, while the groom is employed at Pratt & Whitney.

ANGELA (BETHONEY) HEALEY ’14 (HARTT) and CRAIG HEALEY ’12 (CETA) were married August 6, 2016, in Plymouth, Mass., at the Pine Hills Country Club. Angela is in her third year at Quinnipiac University School of Law. She will be a judicial clerk at the Connecticut Appellate Court beginning in June 2017. Craig works as an acoustics engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat and will graduate in May from WPI with a master’s degree in mechanical engineering. The couple resides in Norwich, Conn.

COURTNEY (GOMEZ) DAVIS ’08, M’10 (ENHP) and Catherine Davis of New Haven, Conn., were married September 10, 2016, in Chicago, Ill. Gomez-Davis is a physical therapist with Rehab Solutions, LLC, while Davis is the director of the Alive Program at the Foundation for Arts and Trauma.

DANA CHERYL NATHANSON ’09 (ENHP) of East Rutherford, N.J., and Alexander Harold Rosenthal were married July 24, 2016, at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston, N.J. The bride is a first-grade teacher at Crescent Elementary School in Waldwick, N.J., while the groom is a real estate associate at the New York law firm Shearman & Sterling.
Kaitlyn Schroyer '13 (A&S) and Thomas Keegan '13 (A&S) were married September 25, 2016, in Simsbury, Conn. Kaitlyn is a copy editor for a daily newspaper and Thomas is a graphic designer. The couple lives in Newington, Conn. Alumni also in attendance at the wedding were Jennifer Sharp '14 and Sam Dick '09.

Heather Vasseur M'05 (ENHP) and Jeffrey Lallo of Westerly, R.I., were married August 6, 2016, at Saint Bernard’s Church in Enfield, Conn. Heather is an elementary school teacher at the University of Hartford Magnet School and is also an EMT-9 for American Medical Response. Jeffrey works as a carpenter at Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. The couple resides in Enfield, Conn.

Nicole Steneri '08 (HAS) and Andy Morrow '08 (HAS) of Avon, Conn., were married in Florida on May 7, but came together with friends for a larger celebration that took place May 28, 2016, at La Notte in East Windsor, Conn. The bride is the creative director at GO Media in Hartford, Conn., while the groom is the creative director for Norcom Mortgage and Insurance in Avon, Conn. Twenty-six UHart Alumni were in attendance.

Mary '04 (A&S) and Shawn '04 (A&S) Murphy of Madison, N.J., welcomed their first child, Grace Mae Murphy, on October 14, 2016.

Paul '01 (CETA) and Kristy “Wing” Naski '03 (ENHP) of Wallingford, Conn., welcomed their first child, Evan Michael Naski, March 23, 2016. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 1.8 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Amanda Pellicione '10 (CETA) and her husband Dr. Christopher Pellicione '10 (A&S) of Middle Island, N.Y., announced the birth of their son, Harrison James, on July 27, 2016.

Kristy Pires '11 (A&S) and Michael Pires (A&S) '10 announced the birth of their daughter, Kinsley Pires, on December 9, 2015, in San Diego, Calif.

Bukr Konuk M'09 (CETA), M'09 (Barney) and his wife, Elif, of Largo, Fla., welcomed a son, Omer Bukr Konuk, on May 29, 2016.

Kelly Wilson Moore '07 (CETA) and her husband, Keith, of Houston, Texas, welcomed a daughter, Eleanor Carolina, on July 15, 2016.

Hannah Carolyn Hinckley was born to parents Rebecca (Bindig) Hinckley ’02 (Hartt) and Kevin Hinckley of Windsor Locks, Conn., on July 22, 2016, at 8:12 p.m. She weighed 9 pounds, 12 ounces and was 22.5 inches long.

Kristin Scharf '99 (ENHP) of Sound Beach, N.Y., welcomed the birth of her son, Cian Edward Scharf, on March 2, 2016. Born at the Stony Brook University Hospital in Stony Brook, N.Y., he weighed in at 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Heather Vasseur M’05 (ENHP) and Jeffrey Lallo of Westerly, R.I., were married August 6, 2016, at Saint Bernard’s Church in Enfield, Conn. Heather is an elementary school teacher at the University of Hartford Magnet School and is also an EMT-9 for American Medical Response. Jeffrey works as a carpenter at Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. The couple resides in Enfield, Conn.
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI
Highlighted At 2017 Commencement Ceremonies

Two distinguished members of Congress, who are also University alumni, were the Commencement speakers in May 2017.

U.S. Rep. Richard Neal (D-Massachusetts) addressed the more than 400 graduates who received master’s and doctoral degrees and certificates at the Graduate Commencement Ceremony on May 20. Neal, who earned a Master of Public Administration from the University’s Barney School of Business in 1976, told graduates that listening is the first step to ensuring that free speech is protected and guaranteed. “So much can be gained from listening—it generates thoughtful discussion, shows you care, expands your horizon, and often leads to new ideas and compromise.”

Before his remarks, Neal was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws. He has served in Congress for 22 consecutive years representing western and central Massachusetts, including Springfield where he was born.

U.S. Rep. Mia Love (R-Utah) addressed nearly 1,000 graduates at the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony on May 21. To the graduates she said, “You are the rising generation. You are the leaders, not just for tomorrow, but for today. Today I challenge you to raise your sight, not just your status, as you enter the workforce and a world desperately in need of your energy, talent, gifts, and commitment.”

Before her remarks, Love was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws. She has served in Congress for 22 consecutive years representing western and central Massachusetts, including Springfield where she was born.

Robert H. Forrester ’66, an internationally recognized leader in the philanthropic and non-governmental sectors, received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during Sunday’s ceremony. He is president and chief executive officer of Newman’s Own Foundation, executive chairman of Newman’s Own, Inc., and manager of the company that owns all the intellectual property rights associated with Newman’s Own and Paul Newman personally. Forrester holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the College of Arts and Sciences. He is currently a University life regent.

David Macbride ’73, professor of composition and music theory in The Hartt School, was presented with the Humphrey R. Tonkin Award for Scholarly and/or Artistic Creativity during the May 20 ceremony. An alumnus of The Hartt School, Macbride is universally recognized as one of the world’s most important composers of percussion music. The Humphrey R. Tonkin Award for Scholarly and/or Artist Creativity recognizes his works that challenge musicians technically, musically, and emotionally.

As has become tradition, graduates from 50 years ago were invited back for a reunion on Commencement Weekend. This year members of the Class of 1967 were inducted as “Golden Hawks” by Alumni Association President Carolyn Bligh and University President Walter Harrison. They processed with the Class of 2017 on May 21 and were seated in the front row at the ceremony.

In photo second from left (L-R): Carolyn Bligh ’87, Ken Wheeler ’67, Adrienne Brown ’67, Irmgard Klee ’82 (representing her husband Otmar Klee ’67), Dorothy Bosch Keller ’62, M’63, President Harrison.
Farewell
Robert H. Lenois C'58 (WARD), Southington, Conn. 9.28.16
Henry R. Loomis C'50 (HAS), Westport, Conn. 6.8.16
Edwin J. Lowicki C'51 (WARD), Rome, N.Y. 9.30.16
Joyce Gifford MacGovern A'50 (HCW), Farmington, Conn. 9.3.16
Sister Mary P. Mahoney M'71 (HARTT), Windsor, Conn. 9.27.16
Andrew J. Mank '65 (CETA), West Hartford, Conn. 9.27.16
Antoinette Shippen Manson M'85 (BARNEY), Bloomfield, Conn. 4.29.16
Don J. Martin A'67 (A&S), '68 (A&S), East Hampton, Conn. 1.10.15
Roger M. Martindale '59 (A&S), Windsor, Conn. 11.18.16
Daniel R. Maycock '68 (ENHP), M'70 (ENHP), Rocky Hill, Conn. 9.6.16
Maurice E. McAllister M'67 (ENHP), Debary, Fla. 7.14.16
Barbara Jackson McCool A'50 (HCW), Centerville, Mass. 4.1.16
Phillip A. McGehan Jr.'76 (BARNEY), Manchester, Conn. 11.10.16
Alan P. McIlveen A'89 (CETA), '89 (CETA), '89 (CETA), Weatogue, Conn. 10.25.16
Robert C. Merrill Jr. M'66 (ENHP), Bristol, Conn. 5.31.16
Juliette Barrow Mikell M'70 (ENHP), Bloomfield, Conn. 4.27.16
Thomas L. Morgan '76 (ENHP), Richfield, N.C. 6.13.16
Mary Drake Reitze M'82 (HAS), Westfield, Conn. 5.12.16
John V. Olejarczyk M'60 (ENHP), Lady Lake, Fla. 9.13.16
Maryellen Weisman Shafer M'71 (HAS), West Hartford, Conn. 5.19.16
Ned F. Smith ’07 (ENHP), Vernon Rockville, Conn. 8.14.16
Cornelia M. Snape M'69 (ENHP), Centerbrook, Conn. 5.16.16
Lucy A. Spatafora A'45 (BARNEY), Wethersfield, Conn. 5.19.16
Patricia St. Clair Stanton A'57 (HCW), York Harbor, Maine 9.16.16
Dorna F. Stover M'95 (BARNEY), Hamden, Conn. 5.28.16
Mary L. Sottile M'70 (ENHP), Simsbury, Conn. 10.5.16
Lucy A. Spatafora A'45 (BARNEY), Wethersfield, Conn. 5.28.16
Sylvia A. St. Amant M'72 (HARTT), Springfield, Mass. 8.19.16
Don J. Martin A'67 (A&S), '68 (A&S), East Hampton, Conn. 1.10.15
Erik J. Ryerson '96 (CETA), Chicago, Ill. 5.16.16
When Charles “Chuck” Pagano ’84, M’07 was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award during Undergraduate Commencement on May 21, it was far from the first time he was front and center on stage. He has been inducted into both the Consumer Technology Association Hall of Fame and the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame, and in January 2016, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 67th Annual Technology and Engineering Emmy Awards.

Pagano joined ESPN a month before it actually signed onto the air in 1979—and long before it became the global sports multimedia juggernaut it is today. Starting as a technical director, he spent 35 years there, retiring in February 2015 as ESPN’s executive vice president and chief technology officer.

Pagano’s contributions made ESPN the leader in marrying cutting-edge technology to unparalleled content across a variety of media platforms. He was the key driver in the creation of ESPN’s Digital Center in Bristol, Conn., one of the most technically sophisticated TV production facilities in the world. Outfitted as an all-encompassing digital resource, the building contains over 7 million feet of cable and four HDTV studios.

Pagano’s culminating effort was delivery of the Digital Center 2 facility. In this 194,000-square foot building, the sports media company is prepared to handle the next wave of technology, whether that be producing content in 8K resolution or adapting shows to be interactive with social media.

Throughout the industry, Pagano became known as a collaborative partner, an early adopter of new ideas, and a leader who always recognized that technology starts with people.

Pagano is also praised for his loyalty, a trait that is clearly illustrated through his long-standing association with the University of Hartford. He has received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering and a master’s degree in organizational psychology from UHart, is a former member of the University’s Board of Regents, and currently serves on the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture’s Board of Visitors.

While an undergraduate, the University’s public alternative radio station, WWUH, provided Pagano a chance to get a taste of the media business—and showcase his favorite genre of music—as he hosted a jazz show. He soon discovered, however, that he was more intrigued by the flashing lights on the other side of the studio’s glass.

“Growing up, the U.S. army had a slogan, ‘Join the army and see the world,’” Pagano recalls. “For me, the calling was to be an engineer and change the world. The engineer bug hit me big time while attending the College of Engineering at the University of Hartford, a very special institution for me.”

Pagano singles out the late Bill Teso, a professor who he refers to as “my guiding light, who showed me the beauty of electromagnetics and communication theory, both important pillars that prepared me for my ESPN journey and hiked up my overall curiosity index.”

“A HAWK’S TALE

Engineering ESPN—
Charles “Chuck” Pagano ’84, M’07

“The engineer bug hit me big time while attending the College of Engineering at the University of Hartford, a very special institution for me.”
SOME SUCCESS STORIES ARE CUT SHORT

LIFE HAPPENS. CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE. TOUGH DECISIONS MUST BE MADE. Last year, dozens of UHart students appealed for more financial aid. Not all of their needs could be met. Your gift to the Anchor Fund will support student financial aid, our students’ greatest and most immediate need.

Please make a gift today.

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD
ANCHOR FUND
SECURING THE FUTURE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

To make a gift
Visit: hartford.edu/giving
Call: 860.768.2400
Mail: Use the convenient postage-paid envelope to mail your check, payable to University of Hartford.
UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

OBSERVER

200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

Change Service Requested